

COLEOPHORA PRUNIFOLIAE DOETS IN WILTSHIRE. — During an unsuccessful search for the eggs of the brown hairstreak on his brother's farm near Trowbridge, Mr. M. W. Smith came across a number of small overwintering *Coleophora* cases fixed in the angle of twigs on blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). He sent four of these for my opinion, with permission for me to retain them. I identified them provisionally as *C. prunifoliae* and when the adults emerged (four females, all on the 12th of July), dissection confirmed the determination. This is a new county record and, I believe, the farthest inland that the species has hitherto been reported. In Essex it abounds in coastal localities such as Benfleet and although it also occurs up to 15 miles inland, it is then local and scarce. The other records known to me, from Cornwall, Devon and Sussex, are all coastal. Mr. Smith is therefore to be congratulated on this interesting record.

I based my determination of the cases on the length of their "necks". *C. prunifoliae* feeds for two or three weeks in the autumn and extends its case by adding rings of leaf epidermis to the oral end. Of the similar species, *C. cerasivorella* Packard hardly feeds at all before overwintering and the extension of its case does not occur until the spring. I am not sure about *C. coracipennella* (Huebner). Larvae found still in their mines on *Prunus*, which I believe to have been *C. coracipennella*, behaved like *C. cerasivorella* after excising their cases. Unfortunately they disappeared during the winter through escape or predation, so nothing is proved. If it can be established beyond doubt that *C. prunifoliae* is the only one to feed extensively in the autumn, this will provide the collector with a helpful means of recognition, especially as October is the best month to search for its cases. The early stages cannot be distinguished in the spring and the adults can be determined only by dissection.

It seems to be uncertain whether *C. cerasivorella* ever feeds on *Prunus spinosa*. It is tempting, but perhaps erroneous, to eliminate this species when cases are found on blackthorn. It would be helpful if anyone who knows the facts were to publish them. —

*C. prunifoliae* has been inadvertently omitted from the Addenda to the *Log Book* (see Hall-Smith, D. H., 1983, *A recorder's log book or label list of British butterflies and moths. Index:* p. 56). It should be included as no. 494a. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF. 4.ix.1983.

THE DEATH'S-HEAD HAWKMOTH IN CORNWALL. — I was pleased to take a fine specimen of *Acherontia atropos* L.: Death's-head Hawkmoth at Kynance Cove on the 30th August 1983 at m.v. light — R. COOK, 11 Greensome Drive, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8BE.